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MEDIA ADVISORY

SCAG's Project For Immigrant Lives Convenes To Announce U.S.-Mexico Conference

**Details Of "The Southwest Compact: Shared Border,
Shared Solutions" Conference To Be Unveiled At Meeting**

WHAT: Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Project for Immigrant Lives Task Force

WHO: The Honorable Greg Pettis, mayor pro tem, city of Cathedral City; chair of SCAG's Project for Immigrant Lives

WHEN: Tuesday, June 25, 2002
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Imperial County Administration Center
Conference Room "B" 2nd Floor
940 West Main Street
El Centro, California

BACKGROUND: More than three years since its inaugural meeting to help save the lives of migrants crossing into the United States through California's southeastern deserts, the **Project for Immigrant Lives** will meet to continue examining the alarming trend of migrant deaths in these deserts.

At this meeting, details regarding the SCAG-sponsored conference entitled "The Southwest Compact: Shared Border, Shared Solutions" will be announced. The conference, originally scheduled for last year, was postponed after the tragic events of September 11th. The conference's purpose is to bring together policy makers from Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas and Northern Mexico to discuss SCAG's Southwest Compact (SWC) proposal. The SWC aims to improve goods movement to promote economic development in the border region, and thereby reducing migrant deaths.

The meeting will also include reports from the U.S. Border Patrol and the Mexican Consulate, as well as the Imperial County Sheriff's Coroner's Office and Project Water Stations.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: For additional information regarding SCAG's Project for Immigrant Lives, please call Arnold San Miguel of SCAG at 909/784-3526.]